

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title at lines 1 and 2 on page 1 of the specification to read as follows:

CLAMP AND ALIGNMENT MECHANISM, AND INFORMATION RECORDING AND REPRODUCING MECHANISM USING THE SAME

Please amend the paragraph on page 2, line 26 to page 3, line 1, according to the following replacement paragraph:

Therefore, since there is caused a situation in which the disk 5 is forcibly laid on the aligning blade spring 1, the disk 5 is apt to be affected by the aligning blade spring 1. It is therefore difficult to provide a stable alignment and clamping operation. Additionally, ~~for that the there is an affection~~ effect from the aligning blade spring 1, because a load necessary to press down the disk 5 (that is, a clamping force) is necessarily ~~raised~~ required. Thus this gives rise to the need for an extra load for operation, ~~which becomes another problem of the conventional clamp mechanism~~ which becomes another problem of the conventional clamp mechanism.

Please amend the paragraph on page 6, lines 26 to 33, according to the following replacement paragraph:

~~Referring~~ Referring to the accompanying drawings, a preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described. In the following, a disk-reproducing mechanism employed as an information-reproducing mechanism will be described. The disk-reproducing mechanism, which adopts a clamp/alignment mechanism according to the present invention, is configured to reproduce bits of information recorded on recording mediums, such as CDs and DVDs.